

From: [Rusty Swafford - NOAA Federal](#)
To: [Chen, Isaac](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Copy of NMFS Concurrence on BOEM EFH
Date: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 10:42:14 AM

Issac,

Sorry, was dealing with a little thing called Hurricane Harvey last week. Yes you can send the EFH Assessemtn to me by email or at:

Rusty Swafford
NMFS HCD
4700 Av. U
Galveston, TX 77551

Rusty

On Wed, Aug 30, 2017 at 9:53 AM, Chen, Isaac <Chen.Isaac@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi, Rusty,

Shall EPA R6 send our EFH Assessment/Determination to you or Sarah for review? Thanks.

Isaac Chen

NPDES Permits & TMDLs Branch

Permitting Section

[\(214\) 665-7364](tel:(214)665-7364)

From: Larsen, Brent
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Chen, Isaac <Chen.Isaac@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Copy of NMFS Concurrence on BOEM EFH

FYI

Sincerely,

Brent Larsen

Chief

Permitting Section (6WQ-PP)

[214-665-7523](tel:214-665-7523)

From: Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal [<mailto:sarah.furtak@noaa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 10:27 AM

To: Watson, Jane <watson.jane@epa.gov>

Cc: Rusty Swafford - NOAA Federal <rusty.swafford@noaa.gov>; Rachel Sweeney - NOAA Federal <rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov>; Allison Hernandez - NOAA Federal <allison.hernandez@noaa.gov>; Larsen, Brent <Larsen.Brent@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Copy of NMFS Concurrence on BOEM EFH

Good Morning Jane,

Thanks for your question about who the right contact is for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in the Gulf of Mexico (regarding an Outer Continental Shelf [OCS] 5-year permit renewal for discharges from offshore oil and gas facilities).

The EFH contact for the Gulf, Rusty Swafford, copied here, can be reached at [\(409\) 766-3699](tel:409-766-3699).

We are moving the lead role on EPA ESA section 7 consultations for the Southeast Regional Office to the National Marine Fisheries Service HQ in Silver Spring, Maryland (per a very recent management decision). I just confirmed with Allison Hernandez, copied here (phone [301-427-8413](tel:301-427-8413)), that she is your best contact for section 7 consultation related to this OCS permit renewal.

All the best to you in your next adventure! It has been a pleasure working with you!

Sincerely,

Sarah

Sarah Furtak

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries

Southeast Regional Office - Protected Resources Division - Coral Conservation Branch
8000 North Ocean Drive, Suite 227
Dania Beach, FL 33004

Office [\(954\) 262-3763](tel:9542623763)
Cell [\(954\) 734-4713](tel:9547344713)

On Mon, Aug 28, 2017 at 7:33 PM, Watson, Jane <watson.jane@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Sarah and Rachel,

I wondered if you could steer EPA Region 6 to the right contact in NMFS/NOAA to help us address the EFH Assessment as we renew a permit for discharges from offshore oil and gas facilities, referred to as the OCS permit (Outer Continental Shelf), for another 5 year term.

Attached please see the EFH response from NOAA on BOEM's EIS for this activity. EPA's plan is to use BOEM's analysis as a foundation, and add a supplement to specifically focus on the activities authorized by the permit.

Who would review our submission? Would be the authorized signature be the same as the BOEM EFH? We very much need to coordinate closely with right NOAA/NMFS staff to get the right direction and hopefully reduce your review time.

This is a general permit that provides coverage to many facilities, new applicants can't be covered once the existing permit expires, so the expectation to renew expeditiously is high, from industry standpoint.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Brent Larsen is our POC, he can be reached at [214 665-7523](tel:2146657523), Larsen.brent@epa.gov.

Certainly, I'm happy to talk to you about any good advice/contacts you have, I'm at [214 665-6653](tel:2146656653). The caveat is that Thursday (08/31) is my last day at EPA, going off into retirement!

Thanks

Jane

From: Larsen, Brent
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Dwyer, Stacey <Dwyer.Stacey@epa.gov>; Watson, Jane <watson.jane@epa.gov>
Subject: Copy of NMFS Concurrence on BOEM EFH

Copy of NMFS concurrence on the BOEM Essential Fish Habitat Consultation.

Brent

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Rusty Swafford
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Southeast Region, Habitat Conservation Division
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